

Harbor Chambers Install Officers With 165 Present

Launching another year of activity, the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce dinner meeting here last Thursday night was attended by 165 representative civic leaders at the Woman's clubhouse. President-elect Loren Howe of Hawthorne was installed, together with his staff for 1937. The Torrance chamber, according to custom, was host for the occasion.

Supervisor Leland M. Ford, who was to have given the principal address, was unable to be present, being called to Sacramento late in the afternoon. Ira Dawes, president of the Hawthorne chamber, served in his stead and gave a talk on "Optimism" in which he stated that "this speech has no beginning or any particular point and I'm beginning to doubt its terminal facilities." His audience shared his doubt.

New Leaders Seated
L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the local chamber, was in charge of the arrangements and Mayor W. H. Stanger closed his address of welcome with an amusing recital of New Year's greetings. The response was given by A. F. Franklin, manager of the Lomita branch, California bank, and Rev. Father Thomas F. Kennedy asked the invocation. Charles A. Bland, affable sportsman and member of the Long Beach harbor department, served as installing officer, making a short, tart commentary on the life, foibles and peculiarities of each new official.

President Howe made a short talk on the necessity of a courageous, constructive program and he outlined several innovations for the Harbor District booster organization. Judge Irving P. Austin, Compton chamber president, succeeded himself as one of the five vice-presidents. Others who will serve with him are Thomas Blair, Redondo Beach; E. C. Lewis, F. C. Power, Hugh B. Johnston and Fred Pym. The latter contributed a welcome bit of entertainment when he repeated his character-study of an English vicar at a church musicale.

George P. Larson, of West Los Angeles, the outgoing treasurer, became secretary, and Ray O. Baldwin, bald-pated retiring president, was installed as treasurer, according to Harbor District custom. Al Robinson vigorously directed the community singing that warmed up the program considerably.

Federal Highway Projects Now Being Prepared

Los Angeles county projects that will be undertaken under the federal government's allocation of \$7,704,000 to the state of California for the improvement of highways and the elimination of grade crossings is expected to be available shortly.

The California allotment will be supplemented by an additional appropriation for construction of roads thru federal reservations. Total amount of funds apportioned to the states was given as \$200,000,000.

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LADIES . . . come in and get your yard stick and get your shears ground free.

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He's Down, He's Out



Bill Boyd of the U. S. S. Idaho, is shown retaining his battleship division heavyweight title in San Pedro, Cal., this week as he blasts M. F. Sullivan, of the U. S. S. Saratoga, out of the picture in the second round.

Youthful Sprite on Ice



Miss Fat Merrifield, promising 11-year-old ice enthusiast, demonstrates an "Axel Paulson" white skating on Bitter Lake near Seattle as the recent cold snap brought the first safe ice skating of the 1937 season to Western Washington.

CALIFORNIA SPEAKING!

Significant Statements By Interesting Californians

E. L. Maxwell, attorney (defending Editor Smith, Mountain View Register, against charge of libeling President Roosevelt).—"A 'mountebank' mounts a platform . . . a hypocrite! pretends to be something he is not; a 'false alarm' is a false fear; Christ was called an 'imposter', but we don't call the Scripture libel."

Death Valley Scotty (sued for \$100,000 alimony and \$25,000 attorney's fees).—"Gold is the root of all evil!"

Governor Merriam (in budget message).—"The Central Valleys Water Project is the most important single enterprise under way at the present time."

Laura Barnes, publisher, Eastbay Reporter, Oakland.—"For the first five months of the 24 month term legislators conduct a mad race to make laws . . . then close up shop and go home . . . Wouldn't it be better if a full year were taken to introduce and study bills, and the first six months of the second year to pass or kill them?"

Rex Thomson, Supt. L. A. County charities.—"We should advertise as Florida does that there are no free beds and food here. You'd be surprised at the difference it would make in indigent inflow."

Dr. J. C. Geiger, S. F. Health Director.—"For health and beauty, the battleship figure should not be launched in a cruiser-like gown!"

Pilot Lewis (of recently crashed airliner).—"There was so much 'stuff' on the air I couldn't make out what they were saying. I cruised around trying to get back on the beam . . . and the next thing we were into the hillside."

Theon Wright, L. A. newspaperman (covering air crash).—"A tiny girl in green uniform, her white face twisted with pain, was hobbling about on a cracked ankle, caring for the injured. It was the stewardess, Esther Connor."

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WHERE IS OUR RIVER TONITE?

The Los Angeles river, butt of innumerable jokes, has not always been "funny" and inoffensive as it is today. In the early part of the 19th century it was often on a rampage. Los Angeles county residents who lived within four or five miles of the river never knew when they would wake up to find it raging thru their front yards.

Virtually, the river had the habit of changing its course after each heavy rain. At one period the river had no mouth. All overflow waters coursed thru the pueblo of Los Angeles into deep marshlands westward, between the Old Plaza and the Venice ocean front. The next year would bring an extra heavy flood and waters would pour out of the marshes and over the Ballona Rancho area, into the ocean at Playa del Rey.

In 1825 the river made its present bed to the south as a result of a great flood. There was so much water a permanent mouth or outlet was established. Since then the river has been running into San Pedro bay. For 40 years, following the 1830's, the marshlands dried up gradually. The last of these swampy lands were in what is now known as the Beverly Hills district, where there was good goose and duck shooting as late as 1875.

SUCCEEDS ROUS

J. O. Bishop was appointed by the city council Tuesday night to serve Irvin C. Rous' unexpired term on the city civil service board.

Fruits, Nuts Gain

California fruit and nut crops produced in 1936 were valued at \$174,335,000, a slight increase over the previous year, the federal-state crop service reported.

Life at 65



Still vivacious and the rage of Paris boulevardiers despite her 65 years, Mrs. M. W. of Fisher, Minn., once famed as having the loveliest legs in the world, visits the West Coast. She is seen with an old friend, Bunny Weldon, in San Francisco this week.

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